



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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December 5, 2007  
FB07-047

## *NOAA Fisheries Service Seeking Public Comments on a Control Date for the Commercial Dolphin/Wahoo Fishery in Federal Waters of the South Atlantic*

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is seeking public comment on an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking establishing a control date of December 5, 2007, for the commercial dolphin/wahoo fishery in the federal waters of the South Atlantic.

A control date is a date chosen by a fishery management council and may be used by the council or NOAA Fisheries Service as an eligibility criterion allowing future access to fisheries, or sectors of fisheries. Control date notices let fishermen know that a Fishery Management Council is considering future action to restrict access to the fishery and are intended to discourage speculative entry into a fishery.

At the September 2007 Council meeting, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) voted to establish a control date for all commercial dolphin/wahoo permits issued for the South Atlantic exclusive economic zone. The control date will allow the Council to evaluate fishery participation and address any level of overcapacity.

The establishment of this control date does not commit the Council or NOAA Fisheries Service to any particular management regime or criteria for entry into this fishery. Fishermen would not be guaranteed future participation in the fishery regardless of their entry date or intensity of participation in the fishery before or after the control date under consideration.

The Council may choose to use a different control date, or to give variably weighted consideration to fishermen active in the fishery before and after the control date. Other qualifying criteria, such as documentation of landings and sales, may be considered for entry into the fishery. The Council may choose to take no further action to control entry or access to the fishery, in which case the control date may be rescinded.

## Request for Comments

Written comments on this advanced notice of proposed rulemaking must be received no later than 5 p.m., Eastern time, on January 4, 2008, in order to be considered by NOAA Fisheries Service. See the **Addresses** section for information on where and how to submit comments.

## Addresses

Electronic copies of the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking, published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2007, may be obtained from the Federal Register Web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>, or by sending a written request to:

NOAA Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NOAA Fisheries Service will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.
- **Mail:** Kate Michie  
NOAA Fisheries Service  
Southeast Regional Office  
Sustainable Fisheries Division  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701
- **Fax:** 727-824-5308, Attention: Kate Michie

### How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve the contents of future fishery bulletins please contact:

Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist,

Phone: 727-551-5707, FAX: 727-824-5320,

e-mail: [sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov).

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at the address below. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

**E-mail:** [sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:sero.communications.comments@noaa.gov) and include:

1. "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line.
2. Your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

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